

Message Text

SECRET

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20

ACTION IO-10

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L-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /065 W

----- 025206

R 231540Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3010

INFO USUN 439

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

S E C R E T ABIDJAN 3396

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, PE, CE, UN

SUBJECT: KOREA AND NONALIGNED CONFERENCE (NAC); ROK VICE FOREIGN
MINISTER'S VISIT

REF A) SEOUL 1104; B) STATE 79304; C) SEOUL 2465; D) ABIDJAN 3162

SUMMARY: ROK VICE FOREIGN MINISTER LHO SIN-YONG HAD HIGHLY
VISIBLE AND SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO IVORY COAST APRIL 20-23.
AMBASSADOR HAD PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH HIM CONCERNING NAC
AND USG OFFER TO SUPPORT ROK INITIATIVES WITH GOIC REGARDING
MEMBERSHIP OR OTHER ALTERNATIVES. VICE MINISTER HAD NOT
PREVIOUSLY HEARD RESULTS OF AMBASSADOR SNEIDER'S APRIL 11
MEETING WITH HIS MINISTER (REFTEL C) BUT TOOK FOUR SUGGESTED
COURSES OF ACTION TO BE GUIDELINES FOR ROK AMBASSADOR IN
ABIDJAN. END SUMMARY.

1. IN TWO WORKING DAYS IN ABIDJAN, ROK VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS LHO SIN-YONG MET WITH ALL AVAILABLE SENIOR OFFICIALS IN
FOREIGN AFFAIRS FIELD. PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY IS OFF IN
THE HUSTINGS ON FORMAL VISIT TO NORTHERN PREFECTURES AND FOREIGN
MINISTER USHER IS RECUPERATING IN PARIS FROM DAR-ES-SALAAM

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OAU MINISTERS' MEETING. IN THEIR ABSENCE, LHO SAW ACTING MINISTER

OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER OF STATE DENISE, WAS GIVEN A DINNER BY SECSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MELEDJE, AND MET WITH DIRECTOR OF CABINET OF THE PRESIDENCY GUY NAIRAY AND VICE PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OULATE. ROK AMBASSADOR GAVE WELL-ATTENDED RECEPTION FOR HIM AT HOTEL IVOIRE.

2. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON LHO AFTERNOON APRIL 22 AT HOTEL FOR 45-MINUTE DISCUSSION, MAINLY ON NAC. LHO HAD PRESSED IVORIAN OFFICIALS FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN FORTHCOMING OAU AND NAC MEETINGS, BUT HAD LEFT TO HIS AMBASSADOR HERE THE FOLLOW-UP ON DETAILED POSITION. WHEN INFORMED OF CONTENTS OF REFTEL C, LHO SAID HE THOUGHT THAT SHOULD BE ROK POSITION HERE AND URGED AMBASSADOR SMITH TO FOLLOW UP ON ROK AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHES. AMBASSADOR SMITH PROMISED TO GIVE HIS SUPPORT TO THIS APPROACH. LHO WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE.

3. LHO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER RECENT DEFEATS IN CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM. HE EXPECTS LATTER WILL ALSO FALL TO COMMUNISTS SOON. HE SEES A DIFFERENT SITUATION IN SOUTH KOREA, WHERE THERE IS A DEFENSE TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES, WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE BEHIND THE SYSTEM AND GOVERNMENT, AND WHERE THE ECONOMY HAS BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ("A REAL SHOWCASE OF WHAT U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE CAN HELP TO PRODUCE"). NEVERTHELESS, HE FEARS THAT ACTIVE SUPPORT BY USSR AND PRC TO NORTH KOREA, COUPLED WITH PASSIVE SUPPORT BY WEST TO ROK, MAY STIMULATE NORTH KOREA TO ATTEMPT SUBVERSION IN SOUTH KOREA AND THEREBY BRING ABOUT ANOTHER CAMBODIA OR VIETNAM. THUS, HE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE COUNT HEAVILY ON CONTINUED ACTIVE U.S. SUPPORT.

4. LHO ALSO FEARS EROSION OF VOTES IN UNGA. HE SAID THAT NORTH KOREA'S BASE OF VOTING STRENGTH IS IN AFRICA, WHERE IT GOT ABOUT HALF OF ITS SUPPORT IN 29TH UNGA (22 VOTES), WHEREAS ROK GOT ONLY 8 VOTES OF ITS 64. AGAIN, HE USED THIS ARGUMENT TO URGE ALL POSSIBLE U.S. SUPPORT IN THOSE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE UP TO NOW SUPPORTED ROK, AND EVEN SUPPORT ELSEWHERE WHERE VOTES MIGHT BE SHIFTED TO ROK OR AT LEAST NEUTRALIZED. SMITH

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